

Submitter: Jerry Reed
On Behalf Of: All Oregonians
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB704
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I am Jerry Reed of Grants Pass, a retired higher education administrator, with 17 years experience at Central Washington University, four years work experience in training and development at Boeing, and ten years as a dean at Rogue Community College. With the passage of Measure 111, the next step is to move on to passing SB704 during the current session, which I fully support. This will establish Oregon's Universal Health Plan Governance Board and move the state forward to implement a recommended universal health plan. I urge approval of this bill.

In short, the proposed health plan is projected to save money (\$990 million in its first year in Oregon, more during the following years), greatly reduce complexity for all, provide much simpler less costly administration, and improve timely response to patients who urgently need care, and it will leave no one in Oregon without the care they need. It will improve health outcomes and reduce cost per visit for care. It will end bankruptcies caused by healthcare (HC) problems, and stop denial of basic appropriate care due to lack of money or insurance.

For employers, the removal of the burden of health insurance management and negotiation will save them time, energy, and money so they can focus better on their business. It will also end labor – management negotiations over HC benefits and will remove the need for employers to provide HC for retired and disabled employees since that will be covered in the state plan, and other benefits. So, it will be good for our economy, overall. For workers, they will be able to focus on wages and working conditions and be reassured that health care is not a concern for themselves or their family members whether they are working or between jobs.

There are significant monetary advantages. Individual costs will be less. The annual cost of an the healthcare tax is projected to be less for almost everyone than the current cost of premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other costs of insurance coverage and other HC costs. Supporting this plan is NOT a partisan issue. Overall, a majority of the public and many prominent people in each party support it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jerry Reed
Grants Pass, Oregon